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Action research can be defined as a problem that can be investigated with the help of prior research and that can also be tested to form a solution.

**After all there are no innocent bystanders. What** **are they doing here in the first place?”**

— William S. Burroughs

**Define the Problem:**

My interest lies with bullying in the fourth grade. Although bullying comes in all shapes and sizes I’d like to focus on fourth grade boys and there need for someone to be aware of what is going on and form a solution worth implementing across the globe.

**Is it Researchable?**

Bullying has definitely been around for a long time. Since my two boys were born I have always kept an eye out for issues regarding bullying and how it takes a toll on children negatively. I find that bullying is becoming a more popular attack for kids to use on one another. Many of the rescent bullying stories that have caught my attention are the ones that result in suicide. The incident that has bothered me the most is of 12 year old Joel Morales of east Harlem who hung himself after bullies harassed him about his height, his intelligence and even his deceased dad. His mother had recently transferred his school but nevertheless the bullying continued.

**Prior research (Name at least two sources)**

*Source1: What are the different kinds of bullies? October 2008 www.bullybeware.com*

This article discusses four types of bullying: Direct physical bullying which includes hitting, kicking damaging property. Direct Verbal bullying: includes name calling, insults, intimidation, racial remarks, or verbal abuse. Indirect Bullying: although harder to recognize often done without the victim knowing includes lying and spreading rumors, jokes to humiliate, mimicking, excluding someone and including others, damaging someones reputation or social acceptance.

*Source 2: Psychologists are driving efforts to get effective, research-based bullying-prevention and intervention programs into schools.* By NICOLE CRAWFORD October 2002, Vol 33, No. 9

* This article states that bullying occurs most frequently from sixth to eighth grade, with little variation between urban, suburban, town and rural areas.

It also proves my theory that males are more likely to be bullies and victims of bullying than females. Males are more likely to be physically bullied, while females are more likely to be verbally or psychologically bullied.

**Pros and Cons: (Name at least two sources)**

I believe there are no Pros to bullying. No good can possibly come from it. Cons consist of repetitive behaviors. Meaning this harassment does not just happen once, it is a repetitive attack on someone’s emotions and can even become physical. Bullying causes depression and in many cases has lead to suicide. Bullies do not discriminate on age. It has even happened to 68 year old Karen Klein a bus monitor where middle school children taunted her about her weight and called her names like troll and even recorded it and put on facebook.

Source 1: Bully, Bullied, Bystander...and Beyond www.teachingtolerance.org

Source two: Bullying behaviours amongst US youth by Tonja R. Nansel PHD

**Current Instructional strategies: (Name at least two sources)**

*Source 1: Psychologists are driving efforts to get effective, research-based bullying-prevention and intervention programs into schools.* By NICOLE CRAWFORD October 2002, Vol 33, No. 9

This article discusses promoting programs that work in the schools to help stop and prevent bullying. One of which was developed by psychologist Dan Olweus, Ph. D.and is called the Olweus bullying prevention program and considered by many to be the "father" of bullying research. The point of this program to improve peer relations and make to make the overall environment a better place.

**Practitioners/ Theorists ( Name at least two sources):**

1. Tonja R. Nansel, PhD

2. Dr. Dan Olweus: Bullying Prevention Program

**My proposed intervention (Independent Variable): (Name one source)**

My proposed intervention would be to increase awareness not only with the children but with there parents as well. Around the beginning of the school year there could be a bring your parent to school day where bullying is addressed and making both the parent and child aware of bullying and ways to prevent this from occurring to there children and the children of others. Bullies don’t just wake up one morning wanting to be a bully it is a learned trait that they picked up from someone close to home.

**How will you define construct and measure your intervention? (Dependent Variable):** I will measure my intervention by using a survey to ask questions such as what bothers you? Do you feel alone? When do you get bullied? Have you been bullied? Where do you feel safe? Who can you count on? Are you being followed?

References:

Olweus, D. (2003). A profile of bullying at school. *Educational Leadership*, *60*(6), 12-17.

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